



Inside CFSA



News for partners of the D.C. Child and Family Services Agency

Brenda Donald Walker, Acting Director

Congress Provides Emergency Support for Local Kinship Caregivers *CFSA, private agencies gain funds to help relatives achieve foster-home licensing standards*

A special appropriation of FY04 funds from the U.S. Congress has given CFSA social workers—and social workers in agencies under contract to CFSA—additional funds to help extended family care for children in the District's child welfare system. Funding under the Emergency Support for Kinship Caregivers program is earmarked to provide services and supports that will allow relatives to become or remain licensed kinship caregivers. The funds are intended to remove barriers to prompt placement with appropriate relatives when children cannot be safe in their birth homes.

"This \$1 million appropriation is one-time funding over and above CFSA's FY04 budget," said Sarah Maxwell, CFSA deputy director, Program Operations. "We need to seize the opportunity to put this windfall to good use for our children and families."

CFSA will approve requests from social workers on a first-come/first-served basis for as long as the special appropriation lasts.

Relatives Must Meet Eligibility Requirements

Relatives who want to care for related children in the District's child welfare system are eligible for Emergency Support if immediate assistance will facilitate kinship placement by allowing the caregivers to meet foster-home licensing standards. This is the only situation in which Emergency Support for Kinship Caregivers can be used.

Additional requirements promote safe, stable kinship placements.

- Services must not be available from other sources quickly enough to allow prompt kinship placement.



- All adults in the home must have required clearances, and the home must be appropriate.
- Caregivers must be willing to provide a stable placement and to cooperate with case goals and court mandates.
- They must also agree to remain licensed while the child is in their home and to allow goods and services purchased with these funds to go with the child if his/her placement changes (exclusive of permanent alterations to the caregivers' home).

Emergency Support Limitations

Under Congressional mandates attached to the funding and administrative guidelines CFSA has developed:

- CFSA will make Emergency Support payments directly to vendors only, except in special circumstances.
- Kinship caregivers may have to share in the expense of some services/supports.

Requesting Emergency Support

CFSA is accepting applications now. Complete information about and applications for Emergency Support for Kinship Caregivers are available from Nicole Wright-Gurdon at CFSA, (202) 727-7038 or nwgurdon@cfsa-dc.org. ■

CFSA Public Information faxes this newsletter monthly to agency providers and other partners. To provide comments or to update your fax number, call (202) 442-6015. Editor: Mindy Good ■

Services Eligible for Emergency Support for Kinship Caregivers

Support Services

- Equipment to care for disabled children
- Transportation for children
- Temporary child care
- Temporary food assistance
- Furniture
- Clothing for children unavailable from CFSA Volunteer Services

Housing

- One-time security deposit or up to three months of rent
- Renovations or repairs to allow the caregiver to meet licensing standards or a related foster child's special needs
- Temporary assistance with utility bills

Special Services

Individualized services that do not fall into one of the categories above but that are necessary to allow the kinship caregiver to become or remain licensed